Caning—Cranganur High School.

310. Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether they are aware that on 17th Thulam 1107 a student of the Sirkar Boys' High School, Cranganur, was caned by some teacher of the school;

(b) does the Headmaster of the school cane his Assistant teachers for any mis-behaviour of theirs;

(c) if the Government dare to justify (a) what authority is in child psychology to which they conform;

(d) whether the Government are aware that fine, or the cancellation of the number of the marks of attendance or temporary suspension at the worst, would have been a more civilised way of punishing our erring youth in the present case;

(e) what action the Government propose to take regarding the offence in (a) ?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—(a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) The punishment was in accordance with the provision in Art. 30 C. E. C. The Educational Code is in general conformity with principles of educational psychology which warrants punishments according to the nature and magnitude of juvenile crimes.

(d) The authorities did not think that the punishments referred to would have brought about the desired effect on the boy

(e) No action is necessary as the punishment was in accordance with the provisions of code rules.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—(c) Have the Government any idea to amend the provision?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—I have said that the punishment is in accordance with the principles of educational psychology, and therefore if it is in accordance with the educational psychology, it will be ridiculous on the part of the Government to amend the article in the Code.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—(d) Who were the authorities referred to?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—The Head master has got authority and he need not make any reference. So the authorities mean from the Director of Public Instruction down to the Head master.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Whether the Headmasters have got discretion?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—Yes.

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Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Would you please give some instruction to them to reduce corporal punishment?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—Personally I have given instructions to every Headmaster to reduce corporal punishment to the minimum.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Thank you.

Wells—Cranuganr Schools.

311. Mr. M. K. Raman.—Will the Government be pleased to inform the House:—

(1) whether there are at present separate wells in Cranganur High School, for the use of the caste-Hindu Boys and for the non-caste boys ;

(2) if the answer is in the affirmative, when did this system of keeping separate wells for different communities come into existence in Cranganur High School ;

(3) were there not non-caste Hindu boys in the same High School when there was only one well there;

(4) what necessitated the present innovation in Cranganur High School ;

(5) why is such an invidious distinction maintained in an educational institution intended for immature young minds;

(6) are the Government aware that there are not separate wells for different classes in the Girls' High School of the same locality ;

(7) who was the Headmaster of the High School for boys at the time when the separate system was first introduced and who was the Headmistress of the Girls' Institution at the time and to what caste did each belong ?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—(1) Yes.

(2) In 1101.

(3) Yes.

(4) Since the construction of the first well none other than caste Hindus used to touch it. On the representation of non-Hindus another well was constructed and the existing practice was allowed to continue in the case of the other well.

(5) The Education Department only reflects the general trend of public opinion and when society comes to view these distinctions as invidious they will die out from the schools.

(6) Yes.

(7) Mr. M. A. Krishna Ayyar, Caste-Hindu. Mrs. Elizabeth Xavier, Christian.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—(6) In the Cranganur Girls' School are all classes admitted?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—Yes.

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